



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 2, 2007

For Information Contact Public Affairs  
WYN HORNBUCKLE  
Telephone: (602) 514-7625  
Cell: (602) 525-2681

## **ILLEGAL ALIEN ADMITS ASSUMING IDENTITY OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICEMAN**

PHOENIX – Cirilo Espino Ibarra, 26, of Mesa, Ariz., pleaded guilty Thursday to the felony offenses of False Statements on a Passport Application and Illegal Alien in Possession of a Firearm, in federal district court in Phoenix, before Magistrate Judge Lawrence O. Anderson.

In the course of his guilty pleas, Espino Ibarra admitted the following facts. With respect to the passport offense, on January 13, 2003, at a passport office in Mesa, Espino Ibarra knowingly made false statements on an application for a United States passport with intent to secure a passport for his own use in violation of federal law. On the actual application, Espino Ibarra provided the name of another individual, with a birth date in 1978, and a place of birth in Westminster, California, all of which he knew was false. In fact, on that date, the real individual named on the passport application was on active duty with the United States Air Force and stationed Okinawa, Japan. Espino Ibarra admitted that he applied for the passport in order to facilitate his remaining in the United States and traveling back and forth to Mexico. With respect to the firearms offense, on August 18, 2004, Espino Ibarra, while an alien illegally in the United States, knowingly possessed a Hi-Point, Model C, 9mm, semi-automatic pistol, with an obliterated serial number. At the time of this offense, the firearm was stored in a pick-up truck Espino Ibarra had fraudulently purchased using the identity of the person named on the passport application.

Sentencing is set before Judge Susan R. Bolton on Monday, May 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in Phoenix. Magistrate Judge Anderson ordered that Espino Ibarra remain in federal custody pending his sentencing.

A conviction for False Statements on a Passport Application carries a maximum penalty of five years, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Illegal Alien in Possession of a Firearm carries a maximum penalty of 10 years, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Bolton will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States State Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and Gilbert Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Frederick A. Battista, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-810-PHX-SRB  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-063(Ibarra)

###